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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,469	02/27/2002	Fumirou Abe	826.1795	4737

21171 7590 06/09/2004

STAAS & HALSEY LLP  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

WU, YICUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083,469

Applicant(s)

ABE ET AL.

Examiner

Yicun Wu

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2002.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2-27-02 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

DIANE D. MIZNER  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

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### III. DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-6 are presented for examination.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over Thomson et al., (U. S. Akizawa et al., (U. S. Patent No. 5,452,451).

As to Claim 1, Akizawa et al. discloses a full text search system, comprising:

a plurality of search processing apparatuses in which locations of search-target character string data and character string search conditions are instructed, and search results responding to the instructions are accordingly outputted (i.e. each of the plurality of symbol strings of interest are divided

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into at least two partial symbol strings at any position thereof) (col. 5, lines 15-25); and

a search integration unit in which search-target character string data is divided into a group of character string records and allocated to one or more of the plurality of search processing apparatuses, given character string search conditions are transmitted to each of the search processing apparatuses as search instructions, and search results are received from each of the search processing apparatuses and are integrated (col. 5, lines 15-25); and further comprising:

an update temporary memory unit which temporarily stores new character string records to update the search-target character string data (col. 5, lines 15-25);

an update record search instruction unit in which the new character string records stored in the update temporary memory unit are instructed to any one of the search processing apparatuses determined in advance as a part of the search-target character string data (col. 25, lines 62-67).

As to claim 2, Akizawa et al. discloses a full text search system further comprising:

an update result reflection unit in which old records before being updated corresponding to the new records stored in

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the update temporary memory unit is deleted from the search-target character string data, and the new records are incorporated into the search-target character string data (col. 25, lines 62-67).

As to claim 3, Akizawa et al. discloses a full text search system further comprising:

a search result receiving time storing unit in which after the search integration unit transmits search instructions to the plurality of search processing apparatuses, the time when search results are received from each search processing apparatus is stored (col. 25, lines 62-67); and

a breakdown search processing apparatus judgement unit in which the search processing apparatus which cannot receive search results within a preset time from the search result receiving time received first which is stored in the search result receiving time storing unit is judged to be a defective apparatus (col. 25, lines 62-67).

As to claim 4, Akizawa et al. discloses a full text search wherein when the breakdown search processing apparatus judgement unit judges the search processing apparatus to be defective, the search integration unit revokes all the search results

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transmitted from the plurality of search processing apparatuses, and after incorporating the new records stored in the update temporary memory unit into the search-target character string data by instructing the update result reflection unit (col. 5, lines 1-67), the search integration unit divides the search-target character string data and allocates the divided data to usable search processing apparatuses except the search processing apparatuses which are judged to be defective and the search processing apparatuses which have been instructed to execute search processing by the update record search instruction unit, and instructs the usable search processing apparatuses to execute search (col. 25, lines 62-67 and col. 5, lines 1-67).

**Prior Art Made of Record**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,123);

Hazlehurst et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,927);

Dockter (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,107);

Ogawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,927).

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yicun Wu whose telephone number is 703-305-4889. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday -Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Yicun Wu  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100

DIANE D. AZRAHI  
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May 30 2004